A People Who
PRAY
Week Five: Night

PSALM 88 (CSB)

I am like a man without strength,
abandoned among the dead.
I am like the slain lying in the grave,
whom you no longer remember,
and who are cut off from your care.
You have put me in the lowest part of the Pit,
in the darkest places, in the depths.

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PSALM 88 (CSB)

Lord, God of my salvation,
I cry out before you day and night.
May my prayer reach your presence;
listen to my cry.
For I have had enough troubles,
and my life is near Sheol.
I am counted among those going down to the Pit.

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PSALM 88 (CSB)

Your wrath weighs heavily on me;
you have overwhelmed me with all your waves.
You have distanced my friends from me;
you have made me repulsive to them.
I am shut in and cannot go out.
My eyes are worn out from crying.
Lord, I cry out to you all day long;
I spread out my hands to you.

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PSALM 88 (CSB)

Do you work wonders for the dead?
Do departed spirits rise up to praise you?
Will your faithful love be declared in the grave,
your faithfulness in Abaddon?
Will your wonders be known in the darkness
or your righteousness in the land of oblivion?

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PSALM 88 (CSB)

But I call to you for help, Lord;
in the morning my prayer meets you.
Lord, why do you reject me?
Why do you hide your face from me?
From my youth,
I have been suffering and near death.
I suffer your horrors; I am desperate.

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PSALM 88 (CSB)

Your wrath sweeps over me;
your terrors destroy me.
They surround me like water all day long;
they close in on me from every side.
You have distanced loved one and neighbour from me;
darkness is my only friend

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Theodicy

A People Who
PRAY

“Theodicy is not merely a cold philosophical problem. It is the engine of our grimmest doubts.”

TISH HARRISON WARREN

Prayer in the Night (p. 23)

“Theodicy is an existential knife-fight between the reality of our own quaking vulnerability and our hope for a God that can be trusted.”

TISH HARRISON WARREN

Prayer in the Night (p. 25)

A People Who
PRAY

“We don’t have an argument that solves the problem of the cruel world, but we have a story.”

FRANCIS SPUFFORD

Unapologetic (p. 107)

Where?

Why?

A People Who

PRAY

“Where?” prayers are prayers of attentiveness.

A People Who
PRAY

JOHN 16:33 (NIV)

“In this world you will have trouble…”

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A People Who PRAY

PSALM 130:5-6 (NIV)

I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits,
and in his word I put my hope.
I wait for the Lord
more than watchmen wait for the morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.

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JOHN 16:33 (NIV)

“In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

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1. Prayers of attentiveness – where?

A People Who
PRAY

2. Prayers of grief or weeping – why?

A People Who
PRAY

ROMANS 12:15 (ESV)

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

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MATTHEW 5:4 (NIV)

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”

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EZRA 3:12-13 (NIV)

But many of the older priests and Levites and family heads, who had seen the former temple, wept aloud when they saw the foundation of this temple being laid, while many others shouted for joy. No one could distinguish the sound of the shouts of joy from the sound of weeping, because the people made so much noise. And the sound was heard far away.

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